

Please add new claim 19 as follows:

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19. (New) The polyacetal resin composition according to Claim 3, further comprising 0.01 to 0.2 parts by weight of at least two of difatty acid calciums having 12-22 carbon atoms and 0.01 to 0.9 parts by weight of at least two of esters of a fatty acid having 12-22 carbon atoms with ethylene glycol.

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are in the case. Claim 2 has been amended. Claim 19 has been added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application as originally filed. Specifically, the amendment of Claim 2 is a correction of a typographic error; new claim 19 can be supported by original Claims 11. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,535,127 to Matsuzaki et al. ("*Matsuzaki*"). The applicants respectfully traverse.

The claimed invention recites an ABA type block copolymer comprising polyacetal segments (A) and a hydrogenated polybutadiene segment (B) hydroxyalkylated at both ends. The claimed invention also recites a polyacetal resin composition comprising the above ABA type block copolymer and a specific polymer compound or an inorganic filler. The present resin composition can have one or more of the following four properties necessary for materials, such as for making large-diameter gears, i.e., (1) high cycle capability (high productivity), (2) high roundness, (3) distinguished dimensional stability and (4) distinguished durability

(see page 1, lines 3-6; page 4, lines 17-18; page 23, lines 10-13; etc). Thus, the present resin composition can be used, such as for making large-diameter gears having a pitch circle diameter of 60 mm or more (see page 36, lines 23-25; etc).

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not obvious in view of *Matsuzaki*.

Matsuzaki discloses a polyacetal copolymer composed of an acetal polymer portion and a thermoplastic elastomer portion having soft segments and hard segments, the second-order transition temperature of said elastomer portion being in the range of from -120°C to 40°C (claim 1). Moreover, *Matsuzaki* discloses that the thermoplastic elastomer is a hydrogenated polystyrene-polybutadiene copolymer (claim 8). In *Matsuzaki*, the hydrogenated polystyrene-polybutadiene copolymer has both the soft segment and the hard segment.

To the contrary, the present hydrogenated polybutadiene segment hydroxyalkylated at both ends does not have the soft segment and the hard segment. Therefore, the claimed invention is different from *Matsuzaki* in the polymer structure.

In addition, the polyacetal copolymer of *Matsuzaki* is intended to improve impact resistance and fatigue resistance. In contrast, the present resin composition can satisfy one or more of the following four properties necessary for materials, such as for large-diameter gears, i.e. (1) high cycle capability (high productivity), (2) high roundness, (3) distinguished dimensional stability and (4) distinguished durability and can be used, such as for large-diameter gears having a pitch circle diameter of 60 mm or more. Thus, the problem solved in *Matsuzaki* is different from the one solved in the present invention. Therefore, a person skilled in

the art, faced to the problem of the claimed invention, will not be motivated to take the teachings of *Matsuzaki* into consideration.

Accordingly, *Matsuzaki* contains no teaching or suggestion of the claimed invention. Indeed, the unexpected attributes to the claimed invention are nowhere to be stated in *Matsuzaki*. Therefore, the claimed invention patentably distinguishes over *Matsuzaki*. The subject rejection is thus believed to be overcome.

No other fee except that for the extension of time is believed to be due for the submission of this response. However, should any other fee be required, please charge it to deposit account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Ans. Chad (Reg. No. 40,414)

Date: October 8, 2002

for: Charles E. Miller 24,576
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Enclosures:

1. Marked up Version of The Amendments to The Claims
2. Petition For Extension Of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

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Marked up Version of The Amendments to The Claims

(with insertion and deletion indicated in bold-face underlining and brackets respectively)

2. (Amended) The ABA **type** block copolymer according to Claim 1,
wherein B' is a hydrogenated polybutadiene containing 80-95 mol.% of 1,2-bonds
and 5-20 mol.% of 1,4-bonds.